

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A graphical user interface displayable on a display screen,
2 comprising:
a panning window interface comprising:
4 a high-level map structure panel high-level map structure panel for
displaying a map structure on a first image scale;
6 a panning window for selecting a sub-portion of said displayed map
structure; and
8 a detailed sub-structure panel which displays said selected sub-
portion of said map structure on a second image scale greater than said first
10 image scale.

2. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 1, comprising:
2 a graphical switch that allows said panning window interface to be
activated or inactivated.

3. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
2 said panning window interface comprises a search and highlight
function, said search and highlight function allowing input of a search criteria
4 and highlighting elements in said map structure displayed in said high-level
map structure panel that meet said search criteria.

4. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 3, wherein:
2 said search and highlight function allows input of a plurality of search
criteria and highlights elements in said map structure displayed in said high-
4 level map structure panel that meet said search criteria.

5. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 4, wherein:
2 said search and highlight function visually differentiates highlights
generated according to respective search criteria.

6. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 3, comprising:

2 a graphical switch that allows said search and highlight function to be
activated or inactivated.

7. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
2 said panning window interface comprises a highlight function, said
highlight function allowing input of a highlight selection criteria and
4 highlighting elements in said map structure displayed in said high-level map
structure panel that meet said highlight selection criteria.

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8. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 7, wherein:
2 said highlight function allows input of a plurality of highlight selection
criteria and highlights elements in said map structure displayed in said high-
4 level map structure panel that meet said highlight selection criteria.

9. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 8, wherein:
2 said highlight function visually differentiates elements highlighted
according to different respective highlight selection criteria.

10. A graphical user interface in accordance with claim 7, comprising:
2 a graphical switch that allows said highlight function to be activated or
inactivated.

11. A method for simultaneously displaying a high-level structure of a
2 map structure and a detailed portion of said map structure on a display
screen, said method comprising the steps of:
4 displaying a map structure on a first image scale in a first area of a
display screen;
6 providing a panning window for selecting a sub-portion of said
displayed map structure; and
8 displaying said selected sub-portion of said map structure on a
second image scale greater than said first image scale in a second area of
10 said display screen.

12. A method in accordance with claim 11, comprising:

2 displaying a selectable search and highlight function that accepts
search criteria input and highlights elements in said map structure displayed
4 in said first area of said display screen that meet said search criteria input.

13. A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein:
2 said search and highlight function accepts simultaneous input of a
plurality of search criteria and highlights elements in said map structure
4 displayed in said first area of said display screen that meet said search
criteria input.

14. A method in accordance with claim 13, further comprising the
2 step of:
visually differentiating highlighted elements highlighted according to
4 different respective search criteria.

15. A method in accordance with claim 11, comprising:
2 displaying a highlight function that accepts highlight selection criteria
input and highlights elements in said map structure displayed in said first
4 area of said display screen that meet said highlight selection criteria input.

16. A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein:
2 said highlight function accepts simultaneous input of a plurality of
highlight selection criteria and highlights elements in said map structure
4 displayed in said first area of said display screen that meet said highlight
selection input.

17. A method in accordance with claim 16, further comprising the
2 step of:
visually differentiating highlighted elements highlighted according to
4 different respective highlight selection criteria.